

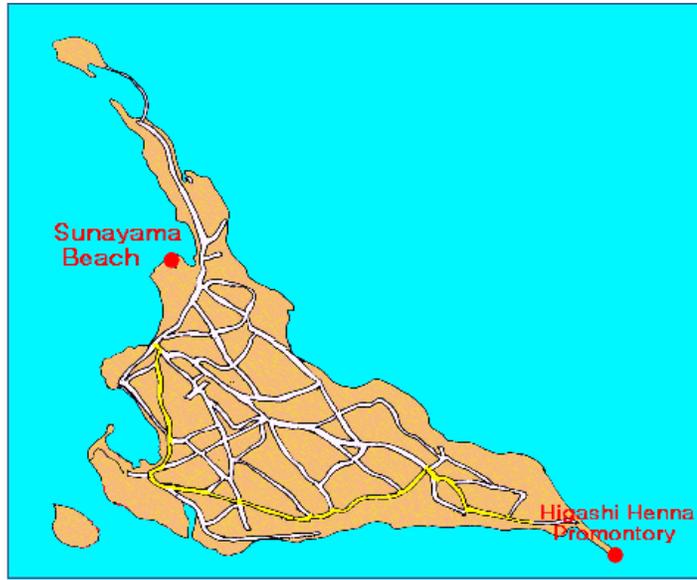
**ACTIVITY:** Swimming or snorkeling  
**CASE:** **GSAF 1996.10.09**  
**DATE:** Wednesday October 9, 1996  
**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Boragawa Beach, Miyako Island, Okinawa.

**NAME:** Unknown  
**DESCRIPTION:** The diver was a male.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, October 12, 1996

**ENVIRONMENT:** The Miyako Island group, consisting of eight islands, is part of Japan's Okinawa Prefecture. It is situated south of Okinawa's main island and north of Yaeyama archipelago, close to Taiwan. The five major islands are Miyako, Irabu, Kurima, Ikema and Tarama. Miyako Island is flat, the highest elevation are the cliffs in the south, and the island has a circumference of about 80 kilometres. Hirara is the largest city on the island.



**NARRATIVE:** A beach watchman alerted the Miyako branch of the Maritime Safety Agency that he had seen a man attacked by sharks at Boragawa Beach. He reported that a man wearing a wet suit had disappeared after being dragged far and wide. When the watchman approached the area, he saw blood and several shark's dorsal fins. A thorough search was carried out by the police, public officials, and fishermen, but no trace of the victim was found. There had been no missing person's report filed. The search was ended on October 10.

**INJURY:** Fatal

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified

**NOTE:** There was another shark fatality at Mikayo Island on July 23, 1996, less than three months prior to this incident.

**SOURCES:** The (Okinawa) Weekly Times (evening edition), Vol.7 No.34, Monday October 14, 1996 online edition: <http://www.okinawatimes.co.jp/eng/19961014.html>

### Man-eater again?

Another shark attack may have occurred in Miyako Island, coming after the fatal incident on July 23. On October 9, a beach watchman alerted the Miyako branch of the Maritime Safety Agency that he had seen a man attacked by sharks at Boragawa Beach. He reported that a man wearing a wet suit had disappeared after being dragged far and wide. When the watchman approached the area, he saw blood and several sharks' dorsal fins. A thorough search was carried out by the police, public officials, and fishermen, but no trace of the victim was found. There also has been no missing person's report filed. The search was ended on October 10.

Okinawa Weekly Times, Monday, October 14, 1996  
Vol.7 No.34, Monday Evening Edition  
<http://www.okinawatimes.co.jp/eng/19961014.html>

